(c) CSB operates Raw Material Banks and provides Margin Money Loan to the State Marketing Agencies to ensure fair price to primary farmers. Besides, in the major markets, State Government Agencies such as the Karnataka Silk Marketing Board play a stabilising role by their presence in the Market. In the current year some State Governments have formulated a short duration Scheme for providing incentive of Rs. 10/- per kg. of cocoons to farmers on cost sharing basis by the Centre and the respective State in the ratio of 50:50, in order to provide relief to farmers from falling prices and encourage them to continue in sericulture.

Besides, during the X plan period enhanced plan provision over the IX plan period has been made *i.e.* Rs. 450/- crores for development of Research & Technology and implementation of Central and Centrally Sponsored programmes. Under the Central & Centrally sponsored programmes, Central Silk Board assists the State Governments and beneficiaries by way of grants-in-aid and technology support for quality and quantitative enhancement of production of silk.

Assistance to H.P. for development of handicrafts

2974. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount granted to the State of Himachal Pradesh for development of handicrafts in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether any effective scheme has been chalked-out for the State in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The details of amount released to the State of Himachal Pradesh for promotion and development of handicrafts during the last three years is as under:—

(*Rs. in lakh*)

Sl. No.	Year	Amount Released
1.	1999-2000	27.08
2.	2000-2001	47.90
3.	2001-2002	96.05
	TOTAL :	171.03

(b) and (c) State-wise scheme are not chalked-out in the handicraft sector. However for overall promotion and development of handicrafts in the country, the Government of India is implementing various schemes, which are also implemented in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The schemes include: AHVY, training & extension, design & technical upgradation, marketing support & services, research & development, financial assistance to State Handicrafts Development Corporation/apex societies and export promotion etc. Recently launched "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" (AHVY) seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the sector.

Insurance scheme for weavers in Himachal Pradesh

2975. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special contributory insurance scheme for weavers in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of weaving centres in the State; and

(c) the facilities and help given to those who want to adopt this method of earning?

THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his Independene Day address to the Nation on the 15th August, 2002, had announced the introduction of a special contributory insurance scheme for one million weavers and artisans combining the Janshree Bima Yojana administered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India with Group Insurance Scheme. Accordingly in the Weavers' Welfare Scheme, a component called 'Bunkar Bima Yojana' combining the Janshree Bima Yojana of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Group Insurance Scheme has been included and the draft scheme has been sent to the Planning Commission as per requirement. Since this Scheme is at draft stage, it has not been implemented in any State including the State of Himachal Pradesh.

However, the Scheme, when finalised, is for implementation during the X Plan.